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BANFF NATIONAL PARK ALBERTA



The Banff - Jasper Highway

GENERAL INFORMATION AND MAP

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND RESOURCES
LANDS, PARKS AND FORESTS BRANCH
NATIONAL PARKS BUREAU
OTTAWA, CANADA

BANFF NATIONAL PARK

ALBERTA

PURPOSE OF NATIONAL PARKS

The National Parks of Canada are areas of outstanding beauty and interest which have been dedicated to the people of Canada for their benefit, education and enjoyment, to be maintained and made use of so as to leave them unimpaired for the pleasure of future generations. The co-operation of visitors is requested in the observance of park regulations so that the parks may continue to serve as natural playgrounds and to provide perpetual opportunities for the enjoyment of outdoor life and recreation.

LOCATION AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Banff National Park in Alberta contains an area of 2,585 square miles and is the oldest of Canada's national playgrounds. The original reservation of ten square miles was set aside in 1885, to preserve as a public possession the hot mineral springs discovered on the slopes of Sulphur Mountain by engineers engaged in the construction of the transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The park lies along the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, extending from the foothills on the east to the continental divide on the west. On the north it adjoins Jasper Park, and on the west its boundaries are contiguous for many miles with those of Kootenay and Yoho National Parks.

Banff Park contains regions of alpine grandeur probably unsurpassed in the world. It embraces a veritable "sea of mountains", the ranges of which rise one behind the other in parallel lines, running generally from southeast to northwest. In the northern section of the park, straddling the great divide, is the vast Columbia Ice-field—150 square miles in extent—a remnant of the Ice Age.

Banff Park also contains the two world-famous resorts, Banff and Lake Louise, as well as numerous other beauty spots. Numerous motor roads and an extensive trail system radiating from Banff and Lake Louise provide access to points of interest.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK

Banff National Park may be reached by railway and motor highway. It is served by the main transcontinental line of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the main stations are Banff and Lake Louise. Rail connections may also be made from points in the United States.

The western section of the Trans-Canada Highway crosses Banff Park from east to west, connecting up with the Provincial highway systems of Alberta and British Columbia. From the east, approach may be made via Calgary; from the west, an approach can be made from Vancouver through Revelstoke and Yoho National Park by an all-Canadian route. This route includes the "Big Bend" section of the Trans-Canada Highway between Revelstoke and Golden, B.C. Approach from the east and north may be made from Edmonton through Jasper via the scenic Banff-Jasper Highway.

Connection from points southwest may be made over a hard-surfaced road from the International Border at King'sgate, B.C., thence through Cranbrook, Kimberley, to Radium Hot Springs. From this point the route is completed over the Banff-Windermere Highway through Kootenay National Park. From Glacier National Park, Montana, Banff may be reached over a direct hard-surfaced route, by way of the Chief Mountain International Highway through Waterton.

Lakes National Park, and thence over Provincial Highways 6, 3, 2, and 1, via Pincher, Macleod, and Calgary.

Following are distances from the town of Banff to well known points:—

Lake Louise, 40 miles; Field, 56 miles; Golden, 92 miles; Revelstoke, 285 miles (via Big Bend); Vancouver, 729 miles (via Big Bend); Jasper, 186 miles (via Banff-Jasper Highway); Calgary, 85 miles; Edmonton, 276 miles; Elk Island Park, 302 miles; Lethbridge, 224 miles; Waterton Lakes National Park, 258 miles; Glacier National Park, Montana (St. Mary's), 263 miles; Radium Hot Springs, 89 miles; Kingsgate, 245 miles; Spokane, 383 miles.

REGISTRATION AND MOTOR LICENCES

All motorists entering Banff National Park must register and secure a transient motor licence as provided for in the regulations governing the use of motor roads in the National Parks. The licence fee is \$2 for an automobile not used for commercial purposes or, if a cabin trailer is attached, the fee is \$3. This licence, good for the entire season, entitles the holder to the use of all motor roads open to motor traffic in all national parks where a transient motor licence is required. Special licences are issued for motor vehicles used for commercial purposes.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE PARK

A resident superintendent supervises the administration of Banff National Park. The Administration, Customs, and Post Office Building is situated at the southern end of Banff Avenue facing the Bow River. A Canadian customs officer is stationed in the building throughout the year, and a United States customs officer from June 1 to September 30, for the examination of incoming and outgoing baggage. The park regulations are enforced by the park warden service, assisted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Land in the park is not sold, but lots in the townsite may be leased for residence or business purposes.

A Government Information Bureau is operated in Banff from May 15 to September 15 and is located on Banff Avenue just north of the Bow River bridge. Information concerning accommodation, travel, recreation, and points of interest may be obtained, as well as literature and maps of the parks.

PARK TOWNSITE AND HEADQUARTERS

The town of Banff, situated in the Bow River Valley 44 miles east of the continental divide, is a year-round resort. It has a permanent population of about 2,500, which in summer is increased to nearly 7,000. As a Government townsite, its public services are operated by the Department of Mines and Resources, which administers all national parks in Canada. These services include water, sewer, local and long distance telephone, and electric light systems, fire protection and garbage removal services, as well as the maintenance of broad, well lighted streets and sidewalks. In Banff and vicinity are several good hotels, stores, restaurants, theatre, banks, hospital and nursing home, churches, schools, public baths, garages and service stations, and transport systems. The telephone office is on Banff Avenue and the post office in the Administration Building.

ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation in Banff National Park is provided by hotels in Banff and at Lake Louise, ranging from the most luxurious to the modest priced and also by mountain lodges, bungalow camps, furnished cottages and rooms. The Banff Springs Hotel and the Chateau Lake Louise, operated during the summer season by the Canadian Pacific Railway, are probably the finest mountain hotels on the continent.

Following is a list of hotels, lodges, and bungalow camps in the park with rates:—

<i>Banff—</i>	Accommodation	Rates
*Banff Springs Hotel... 600 rooms (C.P.R.)	Single \$6.50 up; double \$10 up (Eur.)	
Cascade Hotel..... 45 rooms	Single \$1-\$1.50; double \$1.50-\$2 (Eur.)	
*Homestead Hotel..... 50 rooms	Single \$1.50; double \$2 (Eur.)	
Hot Springs Hotel..... 22 rooms	Single \$3; per week \$17.50 (Amer.)	
King Edward Hotel.... 60 rooms	Single \$2 up; double \$3 up (Eur.)	
	Single \$4 up; double \$7 up (Amer.)	
Mount Royal Hotel.... 57 rooms	Single \$2.50 up; double \$4 up (Eur.)	
	Single \$4.50 up; double \$8 up (Amer.)	
*Y.W.C.A..... 45 rooms	Single \$1.25 up; double \$1.50 up (Eur.)	
	Single \$2.75 up (Amer.)	
*Becker's Bungalows.... Acc. 188 persons..... (Camp No. 1)	Two persons \$3; each additional person \$1 (Eur.)	
*Becker's Bungalows.... Acc. 48 persons..... (Camp No. 2)	Two persons \$4; each additional person \$1 (Eur.)	
*Tunnel Mountain..... Acc. 56 persons..... Bungalow Camp.	Per cabin, \$2 up.	
<i>Sunshine Valley (12 miles from Banff)—</i>		
Sunshine Lodge..... Acc. 46 persons.....	Single \$7; per week \$45 (Amer.); double \$11; per week \$70 (Amer.)	
<i>Johnston Canyon (16 miles from Banff)—</i>		
*Johnston Canyon..... Acc. 112 persons..... Bungalow Camp.	Two persons \$3; each additional person .75 (Eur.)	
<i>Banff-Windermere Highway (26 miles from Banff)—</i>		
*Castle Mountain..... Acc. 52 persons..... Bungalow Camp.	Per person \$5 (Amer.); per week \$32.50 (Amer.)	
<i>Lake Louise (40 miles from Banff)—</i>		
*Chateau Lake Louise... 386 rooms (C.P.R.)	Single \$6.50 up; double \$10 up (Eur.)	
*Deer Lodge..... 75 rooms	Single \$2.50 up; double \$4 up (Eur.)	
	Single \$4.50 up; double \$8 up (Amer.)	
*Inglenook Lodge and Cabin	Acc. 19 persons..... Single \$1.50 up; double \$2.50 up (Eur.)	
*Triangle Inn..... 9 rooms	Single \$2 up; double \$3 up (Eur.)	
*Paradise Bungalow Camp.	Acc. 60 persons..... Two persons \$4.50; each additional person .50 (Eur.)	
<i>Lake Louise Station (38 miles from Banff)—</i>		
Mountain Inn..... 10 rooms	Single \$1 up; double \$2.50 up (Eur.)	
<i>Banff-Jasper Highway—</i>		
*Num-Ti-Gah Lodge.... 5 rooms, 4 cabins, Lodge (24 miles from Lake Louise).	\$7.00 per day (Amer.) Cabin \$5.00 per day (Amer.)	
*Saskatchewan River Bungalow Camp (52 miles from Lake Louise).	Acc. 40 persons..... Two persons \$5; each additional person \$1 per day (Eur.). Single \$5 (Amer.)	
<i>Ptarmigan-Skoki Region—</i>		
Temple Lodge..... Acc. 20 persons..... (5 miles from Lake Louise).	Single \$6; double \$10. per day; Weekly \$35 (Amer.)	
Skoki Lodge..... Acc. 35 persons..... (12 miles from Lake Louise).	Single \$6; double \$10. per day; Weekly \$35 (Amer.)	
<i>Moraine Lake (47 miles from Banff)—</i>		
*Moraine Lake Lodge and Cabins (C.P.R.)	Acc. 12 persons..... Single \$5 up; double \$8 up, per day (Amer.)	

*Summer season only.

N.B.—All rates subject to change without notice.

TEA-HOUSES.—Tea-houses are operated during the summer season by the Canadian Pacific Railway at Plain of Six Glaciers and Lake Agnes near Lake Louise.

PUBLIC CAMP-GROUNDS.—Tunnel Mountain camp-ground situated on the eastern outskirts of Banff, has accommodation for 4,000 persons. Shelters, campstoves, tables, electric light, running water, and sanitary conveniences are provided for the use of visitors carrying their own camping equipment. Automobile trailers are accommodated in a special parking area where electrical plug-in facilities have been provided. The fees for camping permits are \$1 for ordinary tents for each period of two weeks or less and \$2 for automobile trailers for each period of two weeks or less. Rates for electricity at Tunnel Mountain camp-ground per day are 10 cents for 3A. fuse and 25 cents for 5A. fuse, payable in advance.

Public camp-grounds, less completely equipped than that at Banff, are situated at Johnston Canyon, 16 miles; Castle Mountain, 20 miles; Lake Louise, 40 miles; Moraine Lake, 47 miles from Banff; and on Banff-Jasper Highway at Mosquito Creek (mile 54 from Banff); Bow Pass (mile 64); Waterfowl Lakes (mile 75); Saskatchewan River (mile 89); and The Castelets (mile 103 from Banff).

RECREATION

Bathing and Swimming.—Outdoor bathing may be enjoyed at Banff at the Cave and Basin and Upper Hot Springs pools. Outdoor pools with heated water are also operated for the use of guests at Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise.

Boating and Canoeing.—Boating and canoeing is available at Banff, Lake Minnewanka, and Lake Louise, where boats and canoes may be hired. The Bow River above Banff, and Echo Creek are favourite canoeing courses.

Climbing.—The peaks in Banff Park provide unlimited opportunities for mountain climbing. The Alpine Club of Canada, which sponsors supervised climbing in the Rockies, has a club-house on the Upper Hot Springs road, a mile from Banff. Information concerning the annual camp may be secured from the Secretary at Banff, or from the Government Information Bureau.

Hiking.—Numerous short trails in the vicinity of Banff and Lake Louise provide opportunities for outings on foot. Points easily accessible include Sulphur Mountain Observatory, Tunnel Mountain, Norquay Mountain, Squaw Mountain, Spray Valley, Sundance Canyon, and Upper Hot Springs at Banff, and Plain of Six Glaciers, Lakes Mirror and Agnes, The Beehive, and Victoria Glacier at Lake Louise. Annual walking excursions through the mountains, under supervision, are conducted by an organization known as the Sky Line Trail Hikers. Special information on hikes in the vicinity of Banff, together with maps indicating routes, may be obtained at the Banff Information Bureau.

Fishing.—Good fishing may be enjoyed in the lakes and streams of the park, which have been stocked with various species, including rainbow, cutthroat, Dolly Varden, great lake, and eastern brook trout. Easily reached from motor roads are Vermilion, Altrude, Vista, Boom, Consolation, Bow, Waterfowl, and Twin Lakes, Bow and Mistaya Rivers, and Lake Minnewanka. Egypt, Marvel, Ptarmigan, Baker, Sawback, Spray, Glacier, and Chephren Lakes are accessible by trail.

A fishing licence, issued at a cost of \$2.25, is required to angle in the waters of Banff, Kootenay, Yoho, Jasper, and Waterton Lakes National Parks, and is valid in any of these parks during the season. Except, however, any person taking out a non-resident seasonal motor licence shall be accorded free fishing privileges, which shall be extended to all members of the licensee's family dependent on him for support. Children under 16 years of age may angle without a licence when accompanied by the owner of a licence.

As special fishing regulations are in force from time to time, visitors are requested to consult park officers concerning open waters, seasons, and catch limits.

Golf.—The golf course operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway at Banff has a magnificent setting along the Bow River at the base of Mount Rundle. The club-house, parking area, and first tee are a short distance from Banff Springs Hotel. Rates are:—

One round (18 holes), \$2; one day, \$3; one week, \$12; one month, \$45; season, \$75. Special family rates are available.

Golf privileges are also available on the Cascade golf course, situated on the Lake Minnewanka Road four miles from Banff. Rates are: 18 holes, 35c.; (50c. Sundays and holidays); per week, \$1.75; per month, \$2.75; season, lady, \$3; gentleman, \$5.

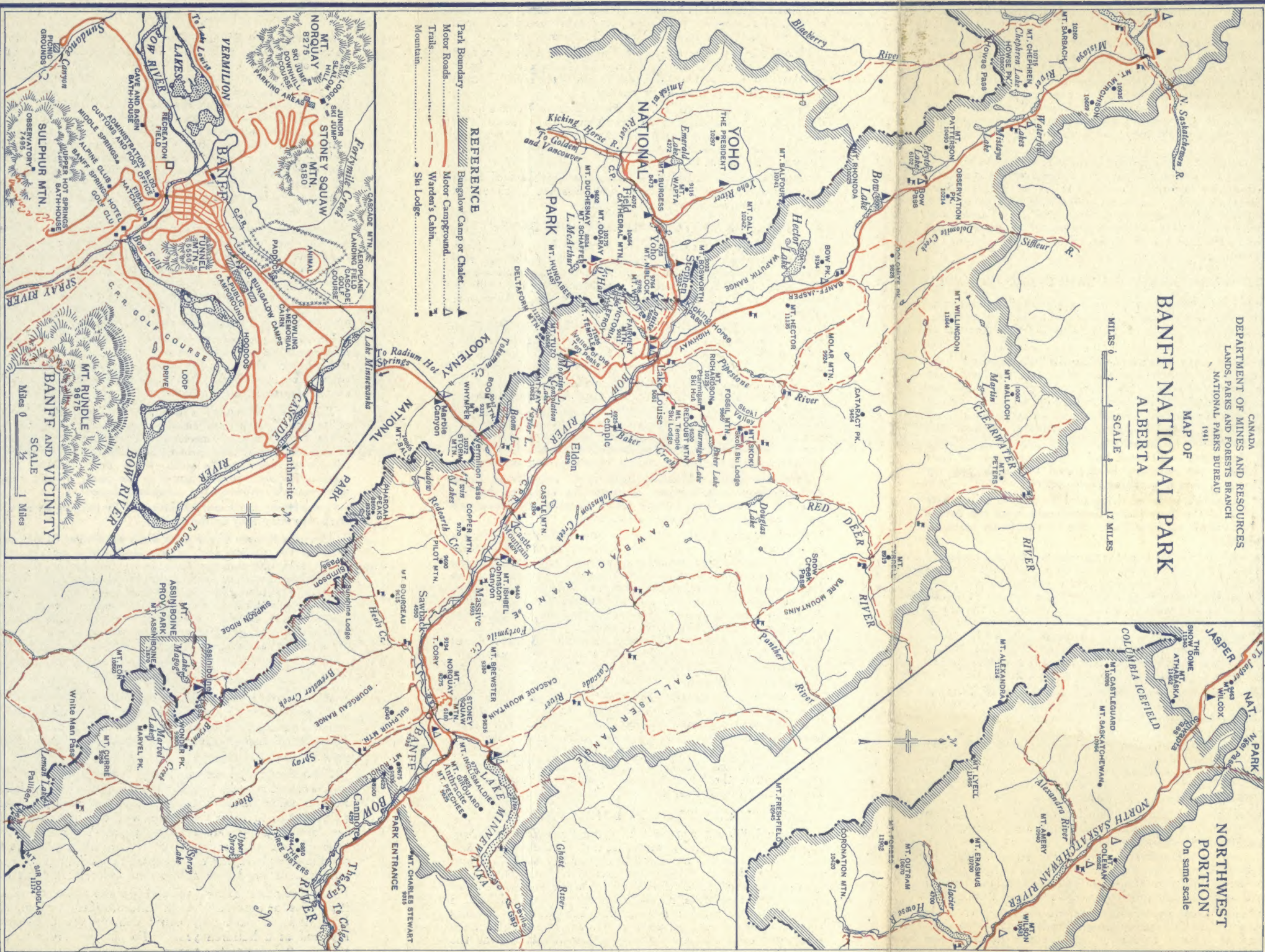
Tennis.—Tennis courts operated by the Government for public use are situated a few hundred yards west of Bow River bridge on the south side of the river. Courts are also

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MAP OF
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MILES 0 1 2 SCALE 1/2 MILES

**NORTHWEST
PORTION**
On same scale



available for the use of guests at Banff Springs Hotel and Chateau Lake Louise.

Winter Sports.—Banff is an outstanding winter sports centre, where ski-ing, skating, curling, and tobogganing may be enjoyed. A winter sports carnival and curling bonspiel are held in Banff each year. Snow conditions and terrain in Banff Park have been favourably compared with those of European resorts. On the slopes of Mount Norquay within sight of Banff are championship ski-jump, downhill and slalom courses, and ski lodge with restaurant, accessible by motor road.

The Ptarmigan-Skoki region, 12 miles from Lake Louise, is unsurpassed for alpine ski-ing, and lodge accommodation is available near Ptarmigan Pass and in Skoki Valley. Sunshine Lodge, 12 miles southwest of Banff, is also situated in a magnificent ski-ing region near Simpson Pass. Guides and instructors are available at these points. A ski-camp is also operated in the late winter season at Mount Assiniboine, 30 miles from Banff.

POINTS OF INTEREST IN BANFF AND VICINITY

Government Museum.—Situated on Banff Avenue near Bow River Bridge, the museum contains specimens of fauna, flora, and geology of Banff Park, and a fine collection of Indian handicraft.

Cascades Rock Garden.—Beautiful landscaped area southwest of the Administration Building. A series of plateaus, constructed of rocks from nearby mountains, are connected by cascades tumbling from pool to pool. Rustic bridges, pavilions, and flagstone walks surrounded by beautiful flowers, rock plants, and shrubs, enhance the appearance of this rock garden.

Fish Hatchery.—Situated half a mile southeast of Bow River Bridge, the hatchery is operated to supply fish fry and fingerlings used in stocking park waters.

Bow Falls.—A walk or drive of less than a mile along either bank of the Bow River downstream from the bridge brings the visitor to Bow Falls, one of the finest cascades in the vicinity.

Cave and Basin Hot Springs.—Located a mile west of Bow River Bridge. A bath-house equipped with showers and rest rooms, as well as two outdoor swimming pools, are available to the public from May 24 to September 30. The water has a temperature of 92° F. Entrance to the Cave, a natural cavern formed by action of subterranean hot springs, is provided by a special passage. Rates for bath-house and pool from June 1 to September 15 follow: Adults, 25 cents; children, 15 cents; bathing suit 5 cents; towel, 5 cents. Adult rate for balance of season, 20 cents.

Upper Hot Springs.—Situated on slopes of Sulphur Mountain two and a half miles from Banff. Modern bath-house with steam rooms for men and women, tubs, plunges, showers, and rest rooms, as well as outdoor pool open the year round. The pool has a temperature of 112° F. Rates for the use of bath-house and pool follow: Adults, 25 cents; children, 15 cents; bathing suit, 5 cents; towel, 5 cents; steam rooms and plunges, 50 cents. Adult rate from September 16 to May 31, 20 cents.

Observatory.—Located 7,495 feet above sea-level on Sulphur Mountain, and reached by trail from Upper Hot Springs. Wonderful views of surrounding peaks and valleys.

Golf Course Loop Drive.—From Bow River Bridge the route follows Spray, Glen, and River Avenues to Spray River Bridge; across bridge and through golf course along base of Mount Rundle to loop and return, a distance of 8 miles.

Sundance Canyon.—Four miles southwest of Banff via Cave Avenue. In wild surroundings, Sundance Creek tumbles in a series of cascades through a huge crack in the limestone formation. Picnic ground in vicinity.

Tunnel Mountain Drive.—Two-way drive up the slopes of Tunnel Mountain, providing remarkable views of Banff, and Bow and Spray River Valleys. Three miles return.

Hoodoos.—Strange freaks of Nature's sculpture, caused by erosion of glacial silt and clay, located on north bank of Bow River. Return distance from Banff via Tunnel Mountain camp-ground is six miles.

Stoney Squaw Mountain Drive.—Recently constructed drive up slopes of Stoney Squaw Mountain to summit of Norquay Pass. Provides fine scenic views along the way and furnishes access to Mount Norquay ski-ing area. Return distance from Banff 10 miles.

Wild Animal Paddock.—Two miles northeast of Banff via the Banff-Calgary highway. Contains fine specimens of buffalo, elk, and Rocky Mountain sheep.

LONGER MOTOR DRIVES FROM BANFF

Lake Minnewanka.—Situated 8 miles from Banff, Lake Minnewanka is one of the beauty spots of the district, and is noted for its lake trout fishing. Although the existing road is closed owing to hydraulic development, the lake will be accessible in 1942 by a new loop drive from Banff, via Anthracite.

Johnston Canyon.—Situated 16 miles from Banff on Banff-Lake Louise Highway. The rocky walls of the canyon, 100 feet high in places, have been formed by action of Johnston Creek. Rustic bridges provide viewpoints for visitors.

Lake Louise.—Lake Louise, 40 miles west of Banff by highway and railway, is one of the most beautiful mountain lakes in the world. It lies between great peaks, with the massive Victoria Glacier at its western end. On the lake shore is the Chateau Lake Louise, a palatial summer hotel, and in the vicinity are other hostelries. Lake Louise is a favourite resort for hiking, riding, climbing, and boating.

Moraine Lake.—Moraine Lake is 47 miles from Banff and nine from Lake Louise. It lies in the Valley of the Ten Peaks in a magnificent scenic area. A bungalow camp and public camp-ground are open in summer.

Banff-Jasper Highway.—This new highway provides a magnificent drive through the northern part of the park, and, directly linking Banff and Jasper Park, connects the resorts of Banff, Lake Louise, and Jasper. The road, which follows successively the valleys on the Bow, Mistaya, North Saskatchewan, Sunwapta, and Athabaska Rivers, provides access to such scenic wonders as Hector, Bow, Peyto, and Waterfowl Lakes; Crowfoot Glacier, Athabaska Glacier (Jasper Park), and the Columbia Ice-field. Distances are: Banff to Lake Louise Junction, 37 miles; Lake Louise Junction to Sunwapta Pass (Jasper Park), 80 miles; Sunwapta Pass to Jasper, 69 miles.

Kootenay National Park.—The Banff-Windermere Highway provides a fine scenic drive to Kootenay Park. The distance from Banff to Vermilion Pass is 29 miles, and from Vermilion Pass to Radium Hot Springs, 60 miles.

Yoho National Park.—Yoho Park is accessible by motor road from Banff, via Lake Louise. The distance from Banff to the Kicking Horse Pass is 44 miles, and from the Kicking Horse Pass to Field, 12 miles.

TRAIL TRIPS IN BANFF PARK

Nearly 1,000 miles of trails in Banff Park lead to beauty spots not accessible by motor road. Outfitters in Banff and Lake Louise are equipped to supply horses, guides, and camping equipment. Favoured excursions include those to Mount Assiniboine, 70 miles return; Spray Lakes, 56 miles return; Simpson Pass, 35 miles return; Lake Louise-Skoki Valley, 33 miles return; Lake Louise-Lake O'Hara, 32 miles return. Annual outings, usually of four days duration, are conducted each summer by an organization known as the Trail Riders of the Canadian Rockies.

FAUNA AND FLORA

Animals and Birds.—One of the greatest attractions of Banff Park is its wild life. Within its boundaries will be found specimens of nearly all big game animals native to the Rocky Mountains, many of which may be seen from the park trails and even from the highways. Included are Rocky Mountain sheep—the picturesque “bighorn”—Rocky Mountain goat, elk, moose, mule deer, black, brown and grizzly bear, cougar and coyote. Among the smaller mammals found are the Columbian ground squirrel or picket-pin gopher, mantled ground squirrel which looks like a large chipmunk, yellow-haired porcupine, snowshoe rabbit, red squirrel, marten, muskrat, pika, and hoary marmot or “whistler.” Beaver are also numerous, particularly in the vicinity of Banff.

Birds are abundant in the park. More than 100 species are found in numbers and are either migrants or common residents. Among the most interesting are the golden eagle, white-tailed ptarmigan, magpie, Clarke's crow, Canada jay, rufous hummingbird, Franklin's grouse or “fool-hen,” mountain bluebird, western tanager, and Townsend's solitaire. Many other song-birds and birds of brilliant plumage may also be observed during the summer months.

No hunting is permitted within park boundaries, and all firearms must be sealed on entry. Guns will be sealed at the office of the Park Superintendent or by park wardens without charge. Wild birds, their nests and eggs, as well as all wild animals, are protected.

Trees and Flowers.—The forests of Banff Park form one of its most beautiful physical features. The lodgepole pine is the most abundant species, and white and black spruce, balsam fir, Engelmann spruce, Douglas fir, limber or Rocky Mountain pine, Lyall's larch, white birch, Alpine fir, and aspen or poplar are also found in the park. Many varieties of shrubs also grow on the mountain slopes.

Green trees must not be damaged by carving or removing bark, nor may they be cut down.

The wild flowers of the park are a revelation to the visitor, clothing the valleys and alpine slopes in a riot of colour. More than 500 varieties have been identified in the Rocky Mountains, and they are found even on high passes, near the snow line, blooming in waves of blue, rose, white, and yellow. Among the best known species are larkspur, violet, columbine, Indian paint brush, alpine anemone, harebell, snow lily, gentian, aster, everlasting, mountain heather, hellebore, saxifrage, dryas, vetch, wintergreen, and fireweed.

FIRE PREVENTION

Visitors are requested to co-operate with park officers in the prevention of fires. Matches, cigarette butts, pipe ashes, and other smoking materials should be completely extinguished before being thrown away, and then dropped only on bare soil.

Camp-fires may be kindled only at places provided for the purpose, and must be completely extinguished before leaving. Persons using the park trails unaccompanied by a licensed guide should acquaint themselves with the parks regulations, and secure particulars concerning suitable campsites and other related information. Parties travelling 10 miles from a railroad and staying out overnight are required to register with a park warden or at the Park Superintendent's office.

Any fire observed by a park visitor should be extinguished if possible, or the nearest park officer notified at once. A fire in a national park may cause damage which cannot be replaced in a hundred years. Forest fires are among the greatest enemies of the parks.

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Additional information, maps, and literature concerning the National Parks of Canada, may be obtained from the Government Information Bureau at Banff, Alberta, or from the National Parks Bureau, Department of Mines and Resources, Ottawa, Canada.
